

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
April 10, 2008
Minutes

Attendees: Mary Feathers, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Gary Bent, Dudley Hamlin, Martha Kelly, Mark LaPlaca, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus, Superintendent Gordon Schimmel, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

Absent:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ms Feathers, Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Hamlin to approve the minutes of the 3-13-08 meeting with a friendly amendment to items IV and VIIA.: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor with an abstention by Mr. Hamlin.**

III. Hearing for Visitors – Mr. Steven Tucker and Mr. John Vampatella, parents of 3rd grade students at Vinton School reiterated their previous request that the Board consider adding a 3rd fourth grade classroom for the 08-09 school year. Mr. Charles Eaton expressed his concern about rising budgets and taxes.

IV. Communications – None.

V. Addition to Present Agenda – Dr. Patwa reminded the Board that there will be an Executive Session to discuss negotiations following the meeting.

VI. Committee Reports – Dr. Patwa reported that the Personnel Committee continues negotiations with the Secretary's Association and SEUI, Instructional Assistants' Union. Ms. Feathers reported that the Superintendent Search Committee has posted the Superintendent's position in *Education Week* and other publications. She also said the School Building Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 23rd at 5:00 p.m. to hear the report of the Construction Manager. Mrs. Kelly reported that the *Teacher of the Year* Committee has started the process for 2009 Teacher of the Year.

VII. Report of the Superintendent:

A. Class Size/Enrollment – Dr. Schimmel and Mr. Baruzzi discussed the history of class size between 1999-2007, as well as projected class size and enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year with respect to Board of Education Class Size Guidelines.

B. Proposed 2008-2009 Budget Reductions - **MOTION by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Ms Lin, to accept the proposed budget reductions of \$334,557. Dr. Schimmel noted that the remaining balance of less than \$3000 will be taken from miscellaneous items in the budget. **VOTE:** Unanimous.**

C. One School, One Read – Mrs. Linda Robinson reported on the success of the 3rd cycle of this program at the Middle School. The entire school read *Under the Same Sky* in small groups thirty minutes a day for three weeks.

D. BOE Workshop Change – **MOTION by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Bent to**

move the spring workshop from April 24th to May 22nd. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

- E. Personnel – MOTION** by Dr. Bent, seconded by Dr. Patwa to approve an extension of leave of absence for the 2008-2009 school year for Sarah Kania, Literacy Coach/Remedial Reading Teacher at Vinton School. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor with an abstention by Ms Lin.

B.

- VIII.** Hearing for Visitors – None.

- IX.** Suggestions for Future Agenda – Dr. Patwa requested a technology report on communications with parents and SMART Boards.

- X.** Information: **MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to send a letter of commendation to Vinton student, Jonathan Huang for winning highest honors in this year's WordMasters Challenge. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

- XI.** Executive Session: **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Mr. LaPlaca to move into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss negotiations. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor. **MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded by Dr. Bent to return to regular session at 10:36 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

- XII.** Adjournment - **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Ms Lin to adjourn at 10:37 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.